REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 42 and 43 have been amended. Claims 42 and 43 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukamoto et al. (US 2002/0048033) (hereinafter "Tsukamoto") in view of the Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") and further in view of Kanno (US 6,252,609) (hereinafter "Kanno") and Okubo (US 2003/0058471) (hereinafter "Okubo").

Claims 42 and 43

Amended claim 42 recites: "...wherein if a portable storage unit is connected for the first time, the processor determines whether the portable storage unit is an interface card or a memory card, wherein if the portable storage unit is determined to be an interface card, the processor checks if a driver program corresponding to the interface card is stored in an internal storage unit, and wherein if the driver program is not stored in the internal storage unit, the processor drives the interface card using a device driver when a memory card in which the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in the second interface."

The Office Action relies on Tsukamoto to show the processor of claim 42 and specifically relies on paragraphs [0030], [0115] – [0134] and [0141] – [0187] of Tsukamoto to show the operation of the processor.

Referring to paragraph [0030] of Tsukamoto, Tsukamoto notes that the RAM 103 is a memory for storing image data read by the reading portion 109 or image data to be recorded by the recording portion 110, the RAM 103 being arranged to store image data to be transmitted from the MODEM card 115 through the PCMCIA Interface portion 114 and received data supplied from a MODEM card 115 or a printer interface card 116. The RAM 103 is able to temporarily store a variety of other data items. Tsukamoto, paragraph [0030].

Further in Tsukamoto, Figure 29 is a block diagram showing the schematic structure of a memory card. The memory card shown in Figure 29 comprises a card interface 600, a memory 601 and a memory control circuit 602. The memory control circuit 602 is used in a case where transfer of commands and data to the body of the apparatus is intended to be simplified, and therefore the memory control circuit 602 is sometimes omitted from the structure. The memory 601 comprises a ROM, RAM, PROM, EEROM or a flash memory, or a combination of them.

When the card shown in Figure 29 is set into the card slot 121 or 122 and the CPU 101 is operated with predetermined software, a program or data can be transferred between the RAM 103 and the memory 601 of the body of the apparatus. Tsukamoto, paragraph [0127] and Figure 29.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Tsukamoto does not discuss the feature of claim 42 where if a portable storage unit is connected for the first time, the processor determines whether the portable storage unit is an interface card or a memory card, wherein if the portable storage unit is determined to be an interface card, the processor checks if a driver program corresponding to the interface card is stored in an internal storage unit, and wherein if the driver program is not stored in the internal storage unit, the processor drives the interface card using a device driver when a memory card in which the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in the second interface.

Further, this feature of claim 42 is also not discussed in the other relied upon references, Kanno, the AAPA and Okubo, taken alone or in combination.

Amended claim 43 recites: "...wherein if a portable storage unit is connected for the first time, the processor determines whether the portable storage unit is an interface card or a memory card, wherein if the portable storage unit is determined to be an interface card, the processor checks if a driver program corresponding to the interface card is stored in an internal storage unit, and wherein if the driver program is not stored in the internal storage unit, the processor drives the interface card using a device driver when a memory card in which the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in the second interface."

Claim 43 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as claim 42.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 42 and 43 patentably distinguish over Tsukamoto, the AAPA, Kanno and Okubo.

These technical features of claims 42 and 43 solve the problem in the conventional art where communication with an external apparatus having a new interface that is not installed in the printer cannot be performed.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 12, 2011

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501